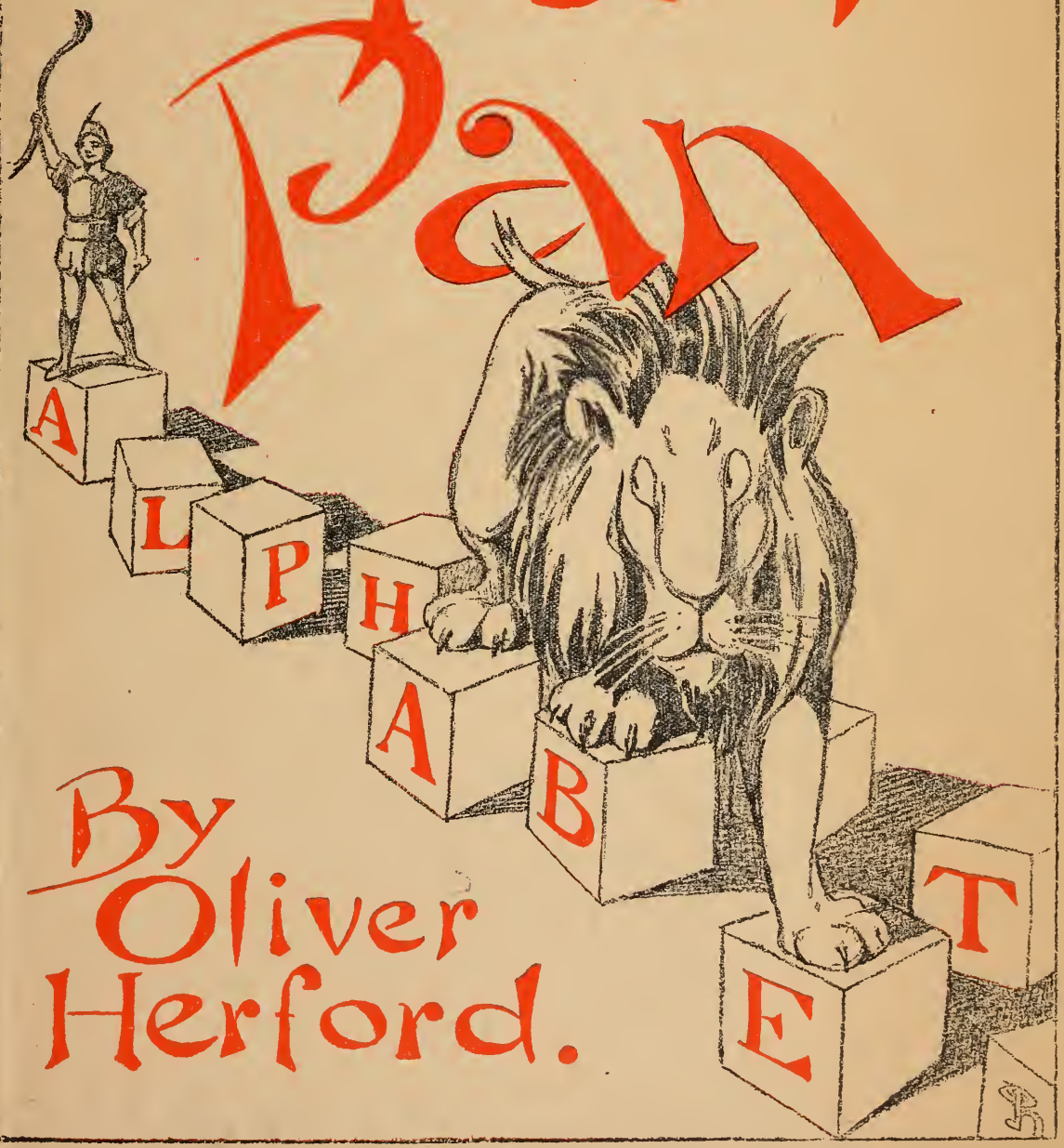
The Peter Pan Alphabet



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THE PETER PAN ALPHABET

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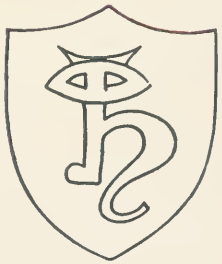
THE PETER PAN ALPHABET

By

OLIVER HERFORD



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1907

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A ROUND ROBIN
TO
J. M. BARRIE

From His Humble and Devoted Servants
THE ALPHABET

The Lord forgive if we transgress
Thus to familiarly address
  One of our betters.
But Jamie, do you no recall
The slate whereon you learned to scrawl
  Your Humble Letters?

Well we remember how you drew
Our shapely features all askew,
  Unflattering really.
You made A lame and B too fat
And C too curly—what of that!
  We loved you dearly.

From that first day we owned your spell,
And just because you used us well
  We served you blindly.
Why, even when you put us through
A fearsome Scottish Reel, we knew
  You meant it kindly.

Jamie, 'tis said Grand Tales there be
Still biding in the A B C—
  If this be true,
Quick Jamie! Cast your golden net.
Maybe we have the grandest yet
  In store for you.

A is for Adams

So A is for Adams, Oh! fortunate A
Luck certainly seems to be coming
your way.

In the Days of my Infancy, A I recall
Stood for Ant or for Apple or anything
small.

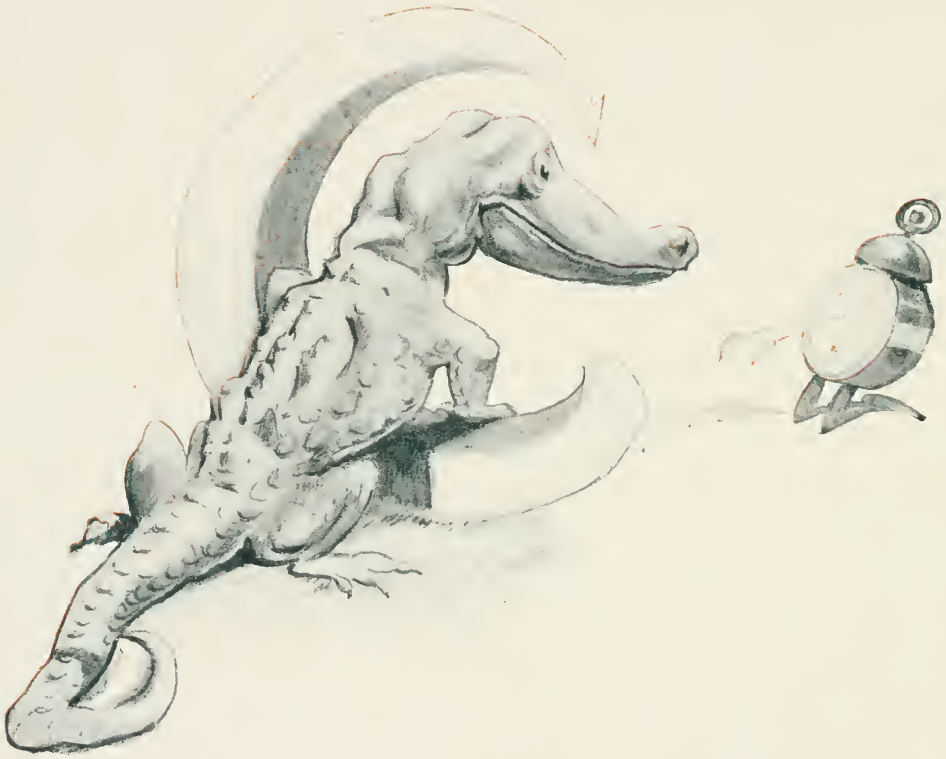
Now A stands for Adams, Maude
Adams, Hurray!

I always *said* A would be Famous
some day.

B

B stands for the Boys

B's for the Boys, all as Busy as Bees
They are building a Little House
under the Trees
With funny red walls and mossy
green roof
Where Wendy may live from danger
aloof



C is the Crocodile

C is the Crocodile Creepy who ate
The right hand of Hook and covets
its mate

He makes a loud ticking wherever he
goes

For he swallowed a Clock (To kill time
I suppose)

D is for Doodledoo

D is the Dire and Dread DoodleDoo
With which Peter Daunted the Pirate crew,
And demolished a foolish old Proverb for good
By crowing before he was out of the wood.

E is the Exit

E is the Exit the three children made
With Peter and Tinker for guides,
Who's afraid?
They sailed through the window as
calm as could be
Like three little Cherubim out for a
Spree.

F is the Fight

F is the Fight, Peter Fought unafraid
And F is his Falchion (Poetic for Blade)
And F's the Fine Feeling all Fearless Boys Feel
When they give a Fierce Pirate a taste of Cold Steel.

G is Old Glory

G is Old Glory—that Peter upreared,
When Hook in the Crocodile's smile disappeared,
And the Decks were still wet with the terrible stains
Of *Invisible Gore* from the Pirate's veins.

H stands for Hook

I'm sorry for H, tho' I don't call Hook mean

For wanting to Blow Up his own Magazine.

I've known a Good Author blow up, in a Huff,

A Magazine just for not printing his Stuff.

I's for the Indian Girl

Peter Pan was too coy for the Indian
Miss;

She sighed for his scalp—all she got
was a kiss.

J is for John

J is for John (No, he hasn't a Pain;
He is Red-Handed Jack of the Pirate Main)

K stands for a Kiss

K stands for a Kiss? Oh, stern featured K!

Who would have suspected—*You'd* leanings that way!

Peter called *his* a Thimble—(*I* think it sounds tame

To call Kisses Thimbles—but what's in a Name!)

L is the Lion

L is the Lion who lashed his Fierce Tail,

And did Peter Tremble? did Peter turn Pale?

Not Much! 'Twas the Lion who moved to adjourn,

He couldn't turn Tail, Peter left none to Turn.

M is for Michael

M is for Michael—ssssh !—whisper it low !

In Pirate Circles he's called Blackbeard Joe !

Napoleon

Nana

N is for Napoleon and Nana

N is Napoleon—Mystic—Profound

And N is for Nana the Noble Nurse Hound—

Two wonderful natures—each great in his way,

One's dead and the other is "Having his Day"

O's for Odds-fish!!

O's for Odds-fish—the Pirate's Oath.

To print such a word, Gentle Reader,
I'm loth.

And should *You* be guilty of language
so low,

I should have to stop calling you
"Gentle," you know.

P is for Peter

P is for Peter, and so are we all,

May he ever keep young and his
Shadow stay Small.

Yet I think 'tis a pity the White House
is Bann'd.

As President, Peter would simply be
Grand!

Q is the Quiver

Q is the Quiver from which Tootles drew

The Arrow that nearly pierced poor Wendy through.

'Twas Peter's *Kiss Button* that stopped it—Ah me!

If Kisses *were* Buttons—how *safe* they would be!

R's for the Redskins

R's for the Redskins, who Guarded the Cave.

What a Treat to see "Injuns" sit up and Behave!

S is the Shadow

S is the Shadow—tho' not of much use,

You'd surely be Sorry if *Yours* Should get loose.

So See to your Shadow—be sure its on tight,

When Peter lost *his* he was in a sad plight.

T is for Tinker Bell

Poor Tinker Bell's dying, Quick! say
you Believe

In Fairies, that Tinker New Life may
receive

U is the Underground Home

U's the underground home mid the roots of the trees,

Where when not slaying Pirates, the boys take their ease.

While Wendy sits mending their shirt-waists and hose,

And the Redskins above Keep watch against foes.

V is the Verse

V's the Vile Verse that the Pirate Bawled—

It was not his language so much that appalled,

Nor the Tune—nor his Voice which was Raucus and Deep

'Twas *the way that he sang it* That made your flesh creep.

W's Wolves

W's wolves—'Tis said they will fly
If you look through your legs at them
straight in the eye.
That's how the Boys did it, but if I
were you,
I'd experiment first on a wolf in the
Zoo.

X is the X Ray

X is the X Ray by whose light alone,

This last fleeting picture of Hook may be shown.

Y is for Youth

Y is for *Youth* to which Peter clung,

But where is the land where he learned
to Stay Young?

Ask Peter, he'll tell you, Geography
scorning,

"Second Turn to the Right and keep
straight on till Morning"

Z
FINIS

Z is the Zebra

Z is the Zebra the Boys *didn't* meet,
But without which no Alphabet's
really complete.

PAN A